Modélisation d'adhésions cellulaires via les cadhérines

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Cadherin-Cadherin adhesion and Actin



- Cadherins diffusion
- Trans- and Cis- contacts
- Local aggregation effect
- Actin polymerization
- Retrograde flow
- Cadherins **unbinding**

Experimental approach



- Flat cadherins substrate
- Release of a single cell
- Spread of the cell, coating
- Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP)



► Cadherins and actins has the same circular distribution Gavard et al., J. Cell Sci. (2004)

Cadherin aggregate and actin



No- β -catenin inhibition



 $\beta\text{-catenin}$ inhibition

With β-catenin inhibition, no polymerization, uniform distribution
 Without β-catenin inhibition, actin polymerization, radial aggregates

Cadherin diffusion and transport



Figure 2. Lower density Ncad-Fc beads show an initial freely diffusive phase. Representative trajectories (X-Y plots, top) and twodimensional diffusion coefficient versus time plots (bottom) of high, medium, and low Ncad-Fc beads. Note the biphasic behavior of the medium and low Ncad-Fc beads characterized by an initial diffusive phase (green line), followed by a sharp decrease in the diffusion coefficient and the initiation of directed movement (red line).

Lambert et al., J. Cell. Biol. (2002)

- Cadherins with low connection to actin filaments diffuse more than "wilde" ones.
- Green = brownian motion.
 Red = "transport" by actin.
- Biphasic behavior for medium and low connected cadherins.
- Diffusion coefficient for binded cadherins 2 order of magnitude smaller, almost zero.

• Macrosc. mod. on Ω = degenerate reaction-diffusion syst.

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u = \sigma \Delta u - r(u, v) \\ \partial_t v = r(u, v) \end{cases}$$

+ Homogeneous Neumann (or periodic) boundary conditions for \underline{u}

- + Normalised initial data : $\int_{\Omega} u_0 + v_0 \, dx = 1$
- u(t,x), v(t,x): free and fixed cadherins densities
- Reaction term $r(u,v) \rightarrow \text{links and aggregation}$:

$$r(u,v) = (\rho - v) \Psi(v) u - \varepsilon v$$

- ε unbound rate, $0 < \varepsilon \ll 1$
- ρ target density (constant), $0 < \rho \leq 1 \longrightarrow 0 < v < \rho$

 $\Psi(v)$ aggregation function : $\Psi(v) = a_0 + a_1 v$ with $0 < a_0, a_1 < 1$ [GGM] M. Grillot, Ph. Grillot, S. Mancini, (submitted)

Steady state of #1

• Stationary solutions (u_0, v_0) to #1 are space homogeneous.

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0\\ r(u, v) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{gives} \begin{cases} u_0(x) = C\\ v_0(x) = \frac{C(a_1 \rho - a_0) - \varepsilon + \sqrt{(C(a_1 \rho - a_0) - \varepsilon)^2 - 4C^2 \rho a_0 a_1}}{2Ca_1} \end{cases}$$

• If conservation $\int_{\Omega} u + v = 1$ with $|\Omega| = 1$, then

$$(u_0, v_0) = \left(\frac{\varepsilon v_0}{(\rho - v_0)(a_0 + a_1 v_0)}, v_0\right)$$

• Linearised system:

$$\lambda u + \sigma k^2 u + Au - Bv = 0 \qquad A = \partial_u r = \frac{\varepsilon v_0}{u_0} > 0$$
$$A = -\partial_v r = \frac{\varepsilon (a_0 + a_1 v_0^2)}{(1 - v_0)(a_0 + a_1 v_0)} > 0$$

• $\lambda_{1,2} < 0 \rightarrow (u_0, v_0)$ stable \rightarrow No patterns/aggregates

Data: $\rho = 1$, $a_0 = 0.25$, $a_1 = 0.5$, $\varepsilon = 0.35$, $\sigma = 1$, T = 200 $\Rightarrow u_0 = 0.5691940$, $v_0 = 0.4308060$



perturbed initial data v_0

final soltion v

Numerical results #1

Data: $\rho = 0.7$, $a_0 = 0.25$, $a_1 = 0.5$, $\varepsilon = 0.35$, $\sigma = 1$, T = 10 $\Rightarrow u_0 = 0.6892565$, $v_0 = 0.3107435$



 v_0 (blue) and v (red)

 u_0 (blue) and u (red)

For the previous data, the steady state has value $\hat{v} = 0.3107435$

$$v_m(t) = \frac{\max v(t, \cdot) + \min v(t, \cdot)}{2}$$



Exponential rate ?

Non-linear aggregation

• if v small then small aggregation and large unbinding • if v large then large aggregation and small unbinding

 $\Psi(v) = a + \tanh(v)$, $\varepsilon \to (1 - \tanh(bv))$



The reaction term reads :

$$r(u,v) = u(\rho - v) \underbrace{(a_0 + \tanh(v))}_{F(v)} - v \underbrace{(1 - \tanh(\alpha v))}_{G(v)}$$

[SMMS] B. Sarels, S.Mancini, RM. Mège, PO. Strale, (in preparation)

Assume $|\Omega| = 1$, u = 1 - v, and define

$$f(v) := (1-v)(\rho - v)(a_0 + \tanh(v)) - v(1 - \tanh(\alpha v))$$

Since $a_0 > 0$, $f(0) = \rho a_0 > 0$, $f(\rho) = -\rho(1 - \tanh(\alpha \rho)) < 0$ and f(v) continuous, then $\exists v_0 \in [0, \rho]$ such that f(v) = 0.



• The stationary solution is **space homogeneous** :

$$\left(\frac{v_0 G_0}{(\rho - v_0) F_0}, v_0\right)$$
, $F_0 = F(v_0)$, $G_0 = G(v_0)$

• Linear system reads:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda u + \sigma k^2 u + Au + Bv = 0\\ \lambda u - Au - Bv = 0 \end{cases}$$

with $A = (\rho - v_0)F_0$, $B = \frac{v_0(\rho - v_0)(F'_0G_0 - F_0G'_0) - \rho F_0G_0}{(\rho - v_0)F_0}$

• The eigenvalues are given by:

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \left(-(A + \sigma k^2 - B) \pm \sqrt{(A + \sigma k^2 - B)^2 + 4B\sigma k^2} \right)$$

and their sign depends on the sign of B. Note A > 0.

Sign of B

- If $B \leq 0$, then (u_0, v_0) stable \rightarrow blue domain
- If B > 0, then (u_0, v_0) unstable \rightarrow red domain \rightarrow patterns formation
- If $v_0 > \rho$, then non admissible solution \rightarrow orange domain



Numerical results #2



Initial data = centered perturbation of (u_0, v_0) . Time T = 200, $a_0 = 0.005$, $\alpha = 2$.

Numerical results #2



Initial data = uniform perturbation of (u_0, v_0) . Time T = 200, $a_0 = 0.005$, $\alpha = 2$.

Initial distribution vs. final distribution

 $\sigma = 3.3 \cdot 10^{-2} \frac{\mu m^2}{s}$, a = 0.007, $\alpha = 2.4$ $v_0 =$ sum of randomly distributed gaussian



intial distribution

final distribution

- $\max(v_0) = 0.05$, $\min(v_0) = 10^{-5}$, $\max(v) = 0.96$, $\min(v) = 0.01$
- $\max(u_0) = 0.99$, $\min(u_0) = 0.95$, $\max(u) = \min(u) = 0.61$

Agregates growth



• At equilibrium 38% of cadherines are fixed and 62% are free to move.

Conclusions and Perspectives

- Linear aggregation functions do not leads to structure formations. Still, interesting mathematical problems concerning degenerate reaction-diffusion systems.
- Non-linear (sigmoids) aggregation and unbinding functions leads to Turing type instabilities. The choice of the parameters has to be investigated more deeply.
- To derive the mathematical model we need more biology experiments, in particular concerning the creation and growth of aggregates of cadherins in the absence of actin.
- Conclude the modeling and try to recover from numerics and mathematical results some biological information as the distance between aggregates and their mean size.
- Take into account the actin filaments and their influence on the distribution and behavior of cadherin aggregates.
- Study a discrete model (cellular automat) and/or hybrid models for the coupling with the actin filaments.

Thank you



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PEPS-Math-Bio-Info : MAC Modélisation d'Adhesion des Cadhérines